

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 20999 021813Z

72

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-15 RSR-01 /113 W

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R 021630Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2283

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, FT, ET

SUBJECT: TRIBAL INCIDENTS IN TFAI

1. ACCORDING TO AFP REPORT DATELINED DJIBOUTI, ON JULY 27, AT REQUEST OF ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT JOINT FRANCO-ETHIOPIAN COMMITTEE MET IN ADIGALA TO DISCUSS RENEWED TENSION BETWEEN AFARS AND ISSAS. ACCORDING TO AFP REPORT, SINCE DECEMBER 1971, CLASHES HAVE TAKEN PLACE IN ETHIOPIAN TERRITORY BETWEEN ETHIOPIANS AND TRIBES FROM FRENCH TERRITORY OF AFARS AND ISSAS (TFAI). FRENCH HIGH COMMISSIONER IN TFAI REPORTEDLY TOOK UP ISSUE WITH EMPEROR IN AUGUST 1972. SUBSEQUENTLY, AS RESULT OF MEETING OF TRIBAL LEADERS AT DIKHIL, FIGHTING CEASED, ONLY TO RESUME AGAIN THIS SPRING AS RESULT OF DROUGHT CONDITIONS.

QUOTING A FRENCH OFFICIAL SOURCE, AFP STATES THAT JULY 27 MEETING TOOK PLACE IN EXCELLENT ATMOSPHERE AND IN SPIRIT OF COMPREHENSION. ANOTHER MEETING SCHEDULED TO BE HELD AT DIKHIL IN AUGUST IN WHICH VARIOUS TRIBAL CHIEFS WILL TAKE PART AS WELL AS FRENCH AND ETHIOPIAN REPRESENTATIVES.

2. COMMENT: QUAI DESK OFFICER FOR EAST AFRICA BERTRAND CONFIRMED DETAILS OF AFP REPORT AND SAID THAT IN GOF VIEW
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TRIBAL SITUATION WAS MANAGEABLE THROUGH EXISTING MECHANISMS.

BERTRAND SAID THERE HAD BEEN NO SIMILAR PROBLEM
BETWEEN TFAI AND SOMALIA; HOWEVER; HE ALLUDED TO RECENT
MILITARY CLASH BETWEEN SOMALIS AND ETHIOPIANS ABOUT WHICH, HE
SAID, FRENCH EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON WOULD BE ASKING
DEPARTMENT.
DECONTROL 12/31/74.
STONE

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